

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-15 and 28-33 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claims 29 and 30 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 29 and 30 can be found in the present specification, for instance, at page 30, lines 32-34, page 32, lines 2-4, page 33, lines 6-8, page 34, lines 10-12, page 35, lines 13-15, and page 36, lines 13-15. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner telephoned Applicants' representative on July 24, 2007 regarding his concern about the clarity of the term "alternate layers" recited in claims 29 and 30. Upon review of the present specification, Applicants agreed to amend claims 29 and 30 by further defining "alternate layers" to alternate layers where (1) each of the alternate layers is different from an adjacent alternate layer and (2) any two adjacent alternate layers comprise at least one metal and silicon, respectively. In other words, if an arbitrary alternate layer in the alternate layers comprises at least silicon, then an adjacent alternate layer comprises at least one metal.

Although the exact language in the present supplemental amendment was not presented to the Examiner, the Examiner agreed that amendments according to this idea would render the claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

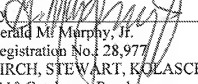
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims are allowed under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr. (Reg. No. 28,977) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No. 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant